

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications.

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus, comprising:

an elongated sealing member; and

an elongated receiver portion having two portions, a closed circumferential portion having a circumference of at least 180° and an opened circumferential portion coupled to said closed circumferential portion, wherein the opened circumferential portion comprises a central opening extending along a length of the receiver portion, and at least one engagement aperture to receive the sealing member, ~~the receiver portion having an opening extending along a length of the receiver portion, the~~ central opening being bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the receiver portion, the opening providing access to the engagement aperture, the opened circumferential receiver portion further having lugs, each lug having a proximal and distal end, each of said proximal end and distal end of said lugs arranged along a plane within said opened circumferential portion, the distal end of said lugs projecting generally outwardly from the opened circumferential receiver portion and downwardly in the direction of the opening of the opened circumferential receiver portion, said lugs provided at each location such that the proximal end of each lug is proximate to one of said first and second ridges and spaced apart from the opening, and wherein said proximal end of each of said lugs comprises a connection point to the opened circumferential portion that forms an angle facing said opened circumferential portion that is less than 180°, the lugs providing a gripping surface.

Claim 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the elongated sealing member has a circular cross-section; and the engagement aperture of the receiver portion

has an approximately circular cross-sectional shape that is configured to receive the sealing member.

26. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the receiver portion includes a handle that extends at least a portion of the length of the receiver portion and extends outwardly and upwardly from the receiver portion.
27. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member includes an opening that extends along a length of the sealing member and a lanyard that extends through the opening.
28. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 27, wherein the lanyard is further coupled to the receiver portion.
29. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a flexible coupling member that couples the sealing member to the receiver portion.
30. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member and the receiver portion are formed of a resilient polymeric material.
31. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 30, wherein the resilient polymeric material includes a polyurethane.
32. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 23, wherein the sealing member and the receiver portion are formed of a generally flexible metallic material.
33. (Currently Amended) A sealing apparatus for sealing a bag, comprising:

an elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive an elongated sealing member, the receiver portion having two portions, a closed circumferential portion having a circumference of at least 180° and an opened circumferential portion coupled to said closed circumferential portion, wherein the opened circumferential portion comprises a central opening extending along a length of the circumference of the receiver portion, the central opening being

bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the opened circumferential receiver portion, the opening providing access to the engagement aperture, the opened circumferential receiver portion further having lugs, each lug having a proximal and distal end, each of said proximal end and distal end of said lugs arranged along a plane within said opened circumferential portion, the distal end of said lugs projecting generally outwardly from the opened circumferential receiver portion and downwardly in the direction of the opening of the opened circumferential receiver portion, the proximal end of one of said lugs provided at a location that is spaced apart from the opening and adjacent to said first ridge, the proximal end of another of said lugs provided at a location that is spaced apart from the opening and adjacent to said second ridge, and wherein said proximal end of each of said lugs comprises a connection point to the opened circumferential portion that forms an angle facing said opened circumferential portion that is less than 180°, the lugs providing a gripping surface.

Claim 34 (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the elongated sealing member has a circular cross-section and the engagement aperture of the receiver portion has an approximately circular cross-sectional shape that is configured to receive the sealing member.
36. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the receiver portion includes a handle that extends at least a portion of the length of the receiver portion and projects outwardly and upwardly from the receiver portion.
37. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, wherein the sealing member includes an opening that extends along a length of the sealing member and a lanyard formed into a loop that extends through the opening.
38. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 37, wherein the lanyard is further coupled to the receiver portion.

39. (Previously Presented) The sealing apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a flexible coupling member that couples the sealing member to the receiver portion.

40. (Currently Amended) A method for sealing a resealable bag, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus having an elongated sealing member and an elongated receiver portion, the elongated receiver portion having at least one engagement aperture to receive the elongated sealing member and ~~[[having]]~~two portions, a closed circumferential portion having a circumference of at least 180° and an opened circumferential portion coupled to said closed circumferential portion, wherein the opened circumferential portion comprises a central opening extending along a length of the receiver portion, and an opening extending along a length of the receiver portion, the opening being bracketed by first and second ridges that extend along the length of the ~~opened circumferential receiver~~ portion, the opening providing access to the engagement aperture, the receiver portion further having lugs, each lug having a proximal and distal end, ~~each of said proximal end and distal end of said lugs arranged along a plane within said opened circumferential portion,~~ the distal end ~~of said lugs~~ projecting generally outwardly from the ~~opened circumferential receiver~~ portion and downwardly in the direction of the opening of the ~~opened circumferential receiver~~ portion, said lugs provided at a location such that the proximal end of each lug is spaced apart from the opening and proximate to one of the ridges, ~~and wherein said proximal end of each of said lugs comprises a connection point to the opened circumferential portion that forms an angle facing said opened circumferential portion that is less than 180°,~~ the lugs providing a gripping surface;

positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture;

positioning the sealing member proximate to the portion of the resealable bag and the engagement aperture; and

pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion with the portion of the resealable bag interposed between the sealing member and the receiver portion.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of positioning a portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture further comprises positioning an opening portion of the resealable bag proximate to the engagement aperture.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the step of pressing the sealing member into the engagement aperture of the receiver portion further comprises closing the resealable bag to form a hermetic seal.